

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/661,744

Examiner

Edward F. Landrum

Applicant(s)

IZUMI ET AL.

Art Unit

3724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Remarks filed on 5/1/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-6 and 9.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 2-6, and 9 are allowed.

Claim 2 is allowable for defining a cutting unit for an electric shaver having an inner cutter with a foil form outer cutter that is movable and fixable in a standard position, and an upper or lower position. The inner cutter and associated outer cutter moves to and from standard position in a vertical direction when the angle of inclination of the cutter head is varied.

Claim 4 is allowable for defining a cutting unit for an electric shaver having an inner cutter with a foil form outer cutter that is movable and fixable in a standard position, and an upper or lower position. When the outer cutter frame is removed from the cutter head of the electric shaver the outer cutter attached to the outer cutter frame is moved to a lower portion of the outer cutter frame and is anchored and fastened into place to prevent vertical movement of the outer cutter.

Kobler et al (U.S Patent No. 3,136,055) teaches a reciprocating electric shaver where the middle cutting unit (9b) is movable vertically from a standard position to both upper and lower positions (Col. 3, lines 57-75; Col. 4, lines 1-6; also see Figures 2 and 3).

Otsuka teaches a reciprocating electric shaver with floatably supported inner cutting units (Col. 6, lines 44-47), the use of foil-form outer cutters (58, see Figure 1), and the inner cutters (70c) in pressed contact (Col. 8, lines 18-32) with the outer shearing foil (57c).

Both references fail to teach an inner cutter and associated outer cutter moving to and from a standard position in the vertical direction when the angle of inclination of the cutter head is varied, and the outer cutter becoming anchored and fastened into place when the outer cutter frame of the shaving assembly is removed from the cutter head of the shaving assembly. Nor is there any motivation to update or modify the aforementioned references to provide a shaving assembly capable of performing the tasks necessary to make the claimed invention of the instant application obvious.

Conclusion

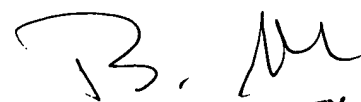
2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward F. Landrum whose telephone number is 571-272-5567. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boyer Ashley can be reached on 571-272-4502. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

EFL
6/5/2006



BOYER D. ASHLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER